

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

About Arizona's New Medical School

Why is it important that a medical school be located in Phoenix?

There are numerous reasons why it's important for a four-year allopathic medical school to be located in Phoenix, the fifth largest city in the nation.

The University of Arizona College of Medicine currently enrolls 110 beginning medical student per year and lacks the capacity to substantially increase class size. About 40 percent of third and fourth-year medical students currently complete their clinical preparation in nine Phoenix area hospitals, and have the capacity to add more. By adding a cadre of first and second-year medical students to Phoenix, in time the total College of Medicine enrollment could nearly double.

Arizona has a shortage of physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and many technical and allied health professionals. Arizona trails most states in the proportion of health professionals to its population. The number of bioscience degrees being conferred in Arizona is going down faster than in the country as a whole, most particularly at the associate degree level. While the supply of physicians in Arizona should increase, important factors under study are (1) the mix of primary care and specialty physicians relative to the needs of the population; and (2) the urban/rural distribution of physicians.

In addition to helping meet the deficit in Arizona's healthcare workforce, the proposed expansion will draw upon the unique physical and intellectual assets of ASU, UA, TGen, and Phoenix-area hospitals and research institutes.

The term allopathic (in Greek "allo" means other) medicine was coined by Samuel Hahnemann, M.D., in the late 18th century in reference to the use of therapeutic modalities which are based on the assumption that symptoms need to be treated.

Where will the medical school be housed?

The target start date is July 2007. Initially, essential administrative offices, library and student-support services, as well as classrooms and a lecture hall will be located in three historic Phoenix Union High School buildings on Van Buren between 5th and 7th streets in Phoenix. The approximate 90,000 square feet of building space is situated on 4.5 acres.

When will the medical school open?

Renovation work on the three historic buildings began March 2005. The medical school is scheduled to open July 2007.

How many students will be taught at the medical school?

The first entering class is planned to be 24 students starting in July 2007. A second class of 24 would start In July 2008.

How many faculty and support staff will be employed at the medical school?

Initially, an estimated 15 to 18 faculty will be needed. It is hoped that current College of Medicine faculty, supplemented by faculty from ASU, TGen, participating hospitals, and research institutes, will comprise the core faculty.

What will be taught at the medical school?

The proposed Phoenix curriculum will support the educational goals adopted by the College of Medicine faculty and approved by appropriate accrediting agencies. A Phoenix track will draw upon unique Phoenix area resources and health care institutions and be characterized by small-group learning experiences supported by advanced technologies, research tracks, and multidisciplinary learning experiences.

What is the University of Arizona College of Medicine's current role in Phoenix?

Since 1992, the UA College of Medicine has maintained a regional campus in Phoenix, allowing about 40 percent of third- and fourth-year UA medical students to complete their clinical studies in Maricopa County. The UA College of Medicine currently has more than 400 volunteer faculty members in Maricopa County, providing a strong foundation for the new college. Their current location is at 4001 North 3rd St. in 17,000 square feet of classroom and office space.

What is the relationship between the medical school and ASU's proposed downtown campus?

The proposed expansion process will involve those elements available or being developed at ASU that would complement the value and heighten the success of the expansion. In addition to a physical linkage between the Phoenix Biomedical Campus and ASU's proposed downtown campus, linkages are planned with ASU's new bioinformatics program in the Fulton School of Engineering and Applied Science, the ASU College of Nursing and Nutrition program, and specific research programs on ASU's main campus.

What is the relationship between the medical school and our local hospitals?

The UA College of Medicine currently maintains a clinical teaching relationship with nine Phoenix area hospitals and plans to continue those partnerships. These affiliations often provide medical students unique educational experiences. Many medical schools utilize a similarly dispersed system of hospital partnerships to enhance educational experiences. Recent changes in the medical school curriculum target a greater integration

between the basic and clinical experiences. This requires a new framework to enable faculty and students to move efficiently between the classroom, the hospital, and the research laboratory. The precise configuration of the integration of the educational, clinical, and research missions of the College of Medicine in Phoenix is yet to be determined.

What is the relationship between the medical school and TGen?

The preeminence of TGen in genomics research and the proximity of the new TGen laboratories on the Phoenix Biomedical Campus to the College of Medicine expansion should provide synergistic opportunities. How those will be expressed is yet to be determined.

What is the financing mechanism to complete the medical school building renovations?

The University of Arizona will lease the three historic buildings from the City of Phoenix for \$1 each for 30 years, then sublease them at the same rate to developer DESCO Southwest, which will perform the expected \$19 million renovations. DESCO Southwest will lease the buildings back to the university, for an expected \$1.4 million a year. The University of Arizona will pay for the facilities in part with tuition and with money already devoted to a lease at their current Phoenix location. After 30 years, ownership of the buildings will revert to the city of Phoenix. The buildings were built in the 1910s and need extensive renovation. A private developer is being used so the renovation can qualify for New Market Tax Credits, a federal program that reduces the costs by about 25 percent. The University of Arizona can lease the buildings for substantially below market value in downtown Phoenix.

Is there an economic benefit to having a medical school in Phoenix?

In February 2003, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) retained Tripp Umbach Healthcare Consulting, Inc. to measure the economic impact of AAMC member institutions on the 46 individual states and District of Columbia in which they are located. According to this study, the total economic impact of the University of Arizona College of Medicine (including both direct and indirect business volume, employment, and government revenue impact) came to just over \$2.5 billion in 2002.

ACMER

What is ACMER?

The Arizona Commission for Medical Education and Research (ACMER) was established by Governor Janet Napolitano (Executive Order 2004-25) and charged with developing a plan to implement the principles enumerated in the August 4, 2004 Memorandum of Understanding signed by the presidents of the ABOR, ASU, and UA for an expansion of the College of Medicine and other health science programs in Phoenix.

This planning and implementation process is not a substitute for, or delegation of, the academic and fiduciary responsibilities of its member institutions.

What organizations comprise ACMER?

State of Arizona (The Honorable Janet Napolitano, chair; The Honorable Carolyn Allen; and The Honorable Laura Knaperek), City of Phoenix (The Honorable Phil Gordon), Arizona Board of Regents (Gary Stuart, President), University of Arizona (Peter Likins, President), Arizona State University (Michael Crow, President), Banner Health (Peter Fine, President/CEO), St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center (Linda Hunt, CEO), Maricopa Medical Center (James Kennedy, Chief Medical Officer & Interim CEO), Translational Genomics Research Institute (Jeffrey Trent, President/Scientific Director), Flinn Foundation (John Murphy, President/CEO).

What is Kurt Salmon Associates (KSA)?

KSA is a global management consulting firm offering integrated strategy, process and technology deployment solutions to the consumer products, retail, and health care industries. KSA's Health Care Consulting group provides management advisory services in facility planning, strategy, and information technology to multiple hospital systems, community hospitals, academic medical centers, children's hospitals, and physician group practices. With 50 years of experience and expertise in working with the nation's top medical schools, KSA was selected to assist ACMER in developing the initial recommendations.

When was ACMER created?

On October 19, 2004, Governor Janet Napolitano signed an executive order to create a 10-member Arizona Commission on Medical Education and Research, whose mission is to develop a plan to implement the expansion of the UA College of Medicine in partnership with Arizona State University. ACMER was formed as a result of a memorandum of understanding signed on August 4, 2004 by the Governor, the Arizona Board of Regents, UA President Peter Likins, and ASU President Michael Crow.

When does ACMER meet?

ACMER meets monthly in the Executive Tower at 1700 W. Washington St. in Phoenix. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates, times, and minutes, along with background information about ACMER, are available online at <http://www.azgovernor.gov>. For more information, contact Fred Karnas, Policy Adviser for Urban Affairs and Community Development, at 602-542-4331.

What are ACMER's task forces?

To assist in planning and implementation, ACMER has organized seven task forces. They are multi-disciplinary in composition with co-chairs and specific facilitation purposes.

They will review and comment on the technical and expert work of multiple working groups to ensure progress. The seven task forces are: Academic; Clinical Care; Finance, Administration, and IT; Phoenix Biomedical Campus Master Planning; Resource Development; Science and Technology; and Business, Community, and Government Relations.

What are the responsibilities of ACMER's task forces?

Academic: Helps expedite and coordinate development of the Phoenix track curriculum and to provide ACMER with a broad understanding and a forum for discussion of the theme, differentiating attributes, timetable for implementation, and other aspects of the Phoenix track initiative as it emerges from the faculty working groups.

Clinical Care: Explores opportunities to advance an appropriate clinical infrastructure, faculty, and involvement of Phoenix health care provider organizations and physicians in the development of clinical and clinical research programs related to the Phoenix track.

Finance, Administration, and IT: Provides ACMER with detail on the budget requirements for all aspects of the Phoenix track implementation, the supporting organization and management structure, and the information technology direction and requirements.

Phoenix Biomedical Campus Master Planning: Provides ACMER with details on facility renovations for the 2006 Phoenix track class and on investments and commitments related to the continuing development of the Phoenix Biomedical Campus and proximate downtown Phoenix properties.

Resource Development: Provides ACMER with approaches and updates related to raising capital and stimulating investment from public and private sources for the sustaining support of the Phoenix track and related clinical research programs and facilities at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus.

Science and Technology: Advances basic science and clinical research initiatives related to the Phoenix track program, the commercialization of research results, and the process for collaborating on these activities across, the Phoenix Biomedical Campus.

Business, Community, and Government Relations: Assists ACMER in ensuring appropriate and timely communications with a full range of constituent groups as the Phoenix track program is initiated and fully developed.

PHOENIX BIOMEDICAL CAMPUS

What is the Phoenix Biomedical Campus?

The Phoenix Biomedical Campus is the working title for the proposed joint medical school campus in downtown Phoenix. It will be located at the Phoenix Bioscience Center at Copper Square.

What functions are and will be situated at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus?

In December 2004, a new building built and owned by the City of Phoenix to house the research and administrative responsibilities of TGen and IGC opened. Future expansion calls for the Arizona Biomedical Collaborative (with facilities to house researchers from the UA, ASU, and other organizations), UA College of Medicine, UA College of Pharmacy, other UA administrative offices, ASU School of Nursing, ASU bioinformatics program, and Northern Arizona University.

Will a hospital be located at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus?

Once decisions on the curriculum, size of the student body, and number and type of faculty needed for the College of Medicine in Phoenix are made, decisions about the type and proximity of clinical patient care facilities will be clearer.

What is an Academic Health Center (AHC)?

An Academic Health Center, such as that proposed at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, offers clinical care, research, and education. Its core mission lies at the intersection of these three components.

How is the Phoenix Biomedical Campus funded?

Construction costs will require a unique blend of private and public financing. Operating costs will be covered by public and indirect funds.

What is the Phoenix Bioscience Center at Copper Square?

This is the name of the city-owned, 15-acre area that serves as home to TGen and IGC. It's also the future site of the Arizona Biomedical Collaborative (ABC) and the Phoenix Biomedical Campus.

What is the Arizona Biomedical Collaborative (ABC)?

ABC is the cooperative effort, endorsed by the Arizona Board of Regents, to develop complementary bioscience programs among and between the universities, including Arizona State University, the University of Arizona and its medical school, and Northern Arizona University. It will be located at the Phoenix Bioscience Center at Copper Square.

What is the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen)?

TGen is a private, nonprofit medical research institution focused on accelerated translation of genomic discoveries into advances in human life and therapeutics against human disease. It's located at the Phoenix Bioscience Center at Copper Square.

What is the International Genomics Consortium (IGC)?

IGC is a nonprofit genomic research institute that seeks to revolutionize the treatment and prevention of cancer and complex diseases by applying the lessons of the Human Genome Project and its successors to advances in human health, with the ultimate goal of establishing public molecular databases characterizing human disease. It's located at the Phoenix Bioscience Center at Copper Square.